

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01997 301304Z
ACTION SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1440

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FOR S/S-O ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XX, US

SUBJECT: CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 282272

1. APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY GIVEN THIS MISSION TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON CFR. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS AND FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS REPRESENT GENERAL CONSENSUS.

2. FIRST OF ALL, MOST OF US DO NOT FEEL NEARLY SO CRITICAL AS YOU ARE OF PRESENT PRODUCT. IF WE DID NOT HAVE IT, THERE ARE MANY MATTERS IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS REALM OF WHICH WE WOULD BE UNAWARE OF UNINFORMED AND FOR WHICH WE SOMETIMES HAVE A NEED TO KNOW. CFR IS READ SELECTIVELY BUT IT IS READ BY ALL OFFICERS AT THIS MISSION.

3. WE DO AGREE WITH YOU, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE CRF ARTICLES ARE TOO OFTEN RECITALS OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND NARRATIVE ACCOUNTS WITHOUT SUFFICIENT ATTEMPT TO DESCRIBE OR EXPLAIN POLICY QUESTIONS OR FACTORS. THEY COULD
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OFTEN BE MUCH MORE USEFUL WITH GREATER FRANKNESS IN DISCUSSION AND/OR ANALYSIS OF POLICY QUESTIONS. AS AN EXAMPLE, A MUCH MORE THOROUGH ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF OUR POLICY RE RHODESIA AND OTHER PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL HERE. SINCE CLASSIFICATION IS NO PROBLEM, I PRESUME ONE DIFFICULTY YOU HAVE IS GETTING INPUT FOR YOUR ARTICLES FROM THE SENIOR LEVELS PRIMARILY

CONCERNED WITH POLICY.

4. THE SO-CALLED "EXTRA BURDEN" ON THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNICATION FACILITIES LEAVES US COLD AS WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE GREAT SCREEDS FROM USUN, LAW OF THE SEA OPUSES, AND NUMEROUS OTHER CABLES OF LESS PERTINENCY AND INTEREST TO THIS MISSION THAN CFR. IT IS NO BURDEN ON THIS END.

5. ALTHOUGH THIS SMALL COUNTRY HAS LIMITED INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS, WE ARE OCCASIONALLY ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS BY THE GOM ON MATTERS REMOTE FROM THESE PARTS AND ON SEVERAL PAST OCCASIONS WE HAVE BEEN HARD PUT TO COME UP WITH ANSWERS. WE HAVE FOUND GIST USEFUL IN THIS CONNECTION BUT WOULD WELCOME GREATER POLICY COVERAGE AND CONTENT IN CFR.

6. IN SUMMATION, I RECOMMEND THAT CFR BE CONTINUED AND SUFFICIENT ATTENTION AND IMAGINATIVENESS BE GIVEN IT SO AS TO IMPROVE ITS VALUE AND UTILITY. STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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